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UNIQUE PRINTER PASS CODE SYSTEM AND METHOD

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ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

8 A unique printer pass code system and method provide the ability to remotely
9 generate a unique pass code for printers operating under the system and method. A printer
10 is configured to independently verify that a submitted pass code is the correct pass code for
11 that printer. The pass code may be generated based upon a unique character string or other
12 characteristic resident within the printer. The unique character string may comprise a serial
13 number programmed into a printer controller during manufacturing of the printer. The unique
14 character string is accessed and passed through a mathematical manipulation algorithm which
15 transforms the character string into a pass code. The pass code may be a truncated result of
16 the mathematical manipulations. One version of the algorithm may be remote to the printer
17 for generating the pass code and a second version may be resident within the printer for
18 validating submitted pass codes. In one application, customer service representatives receive
19 the serial number from customers desiring to enable a dormant feature of the printer and enter
20 the serial number into a computer program. The program mathematically manipulates and
21 truncates the serial number and outputs the resultant pass code. The customer enters the pass
22 code into the printer, which independently verifies the pass code and if the pass code is
23 correct, enables the printer function.

24 E:\Work\Client Files\1200 SanJose\1219\1200-2-19.pap

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